

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
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Your Turn

Write a letter about an exciting experience you have had. Choose descriptive details that help the person you are writing to share the experience with you. Use the writer's checklist to check your letter.



Writer's Checklist

- ☐ **Ideas and Content:** Does my letter include **important details**?
- ☒ **Organization:** Did I separate my letter into paragraphs so it is easy to read?
- ☒ **Voice:** Will the person who reads my letter know I wrote it before he or she sees my signature?
- ☒ **Word Choice:** Did I use precise words related to sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch?
- ☒ **Sentence Fluency:** Did I sometimes use long sentences instead of short, choppy sentences?
- ☒ **Conventions:** Did I use the correct punctuation? Did I check my spelling?

A black and white dog, possibly a Border Collie, is standing in a snowy, mountainous landscape. The dog has a white patch on its face and chest and is wearing an orange collar. The background is a bright, snowy mountain peak.

RESCUE DOGS



Talk About It

In what situations do you hear about dogs coming to the rescue? What abilities do dogs have that make them useful for rescue work?



Find out more about dogs at
www.macmillanmh.com

Vocabulary

variety	fragrance
transformed	cooperation
celebration	canceled
moistened	theory



Thesaurus

A **Thesaurus** is a tool that can help you find synonyms for a particular word. For example, the word *fragrance* may have the following synonyms listed: *aroma*, *perfume*, or *scent*.

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

by Shawna Telman

My name is Sparky and I work for Ms. Toni Graham. I am her in-home companion. My trainer calls what I do “work” but I think my job is fun! I especially enjoy the **variety** in my job: I do many different things for Ms. Toni every day. She says I have **transformed** her life. I have changed things so her daily routine is easier.

Ms. Toni suffers from an illness that makes her hands shake and causes her muscles to stiffen up. She has a hard time bending over. On a bad day, Ms. Toni can lose her balance and fall. Whenever she drops something, I pick it up for her. It’s part of my job.

Another part of my job is to help Ms. Toni with her work. She has an office in her home. Last week she was preparing to mail invitations for some major **celebration** that will raise money for a charity. How did I help? I learned how to lick the flaps of envelopes. They needed to be **moistened**, so that they could seal shut. For once my slimy doggy tongue came in handy!



Every afternoon I accompany Ms. Toni on a walk around town. Exercise is important for her health so we never miss a day. We often see a new sight or smell a new **fragrance** along our route. Ms. Toni rests when we get back. She needs my **cooperation** during this time. I help her by being very quiet. I stay by the front door and keep my eye on things. If Ms. Toni needs me, she rings a bell.

Every so often Ms. Toni can't sleep, so naptime is **canceled**. At these times she likes me to hang out and relax with her. The **theory** behind this is that petting me makes her feel calm. The idea makes sense. She talks to me and brushes me. This is one of the best parts of my job.

I am very lucky to be a part of Ms. Toni's life. People who have a hard time with day-to-day chores can become sad and lonely. Dogs like me help them feel happy.



Reread for Comprehension



Generate Questions Cause and Effect

A Cause and Effect Chart helps you ask questions to figure out what happens in a story (an effect) and why it happens (a cause). Use your Cause and Effect Chart as you reread "It's a Dog's Life" to find several effects and their causes.

Cause → Effect
→
→
→
→

Comprehension

Genre

Fantasy tells a story about characters and events that could not exist in real life.



Generate Questions

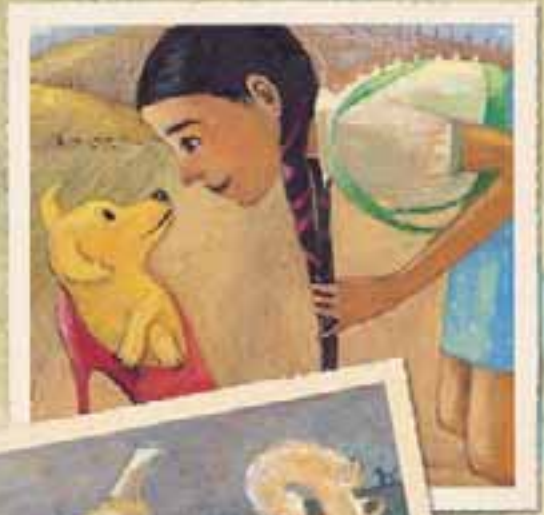
Cause and Effect

As you read, use your Cause and Effect Chart.

Cause → Effect
→
→
→
→

Read to Find Out

How does Pipilo change the lives of the roof dogs?



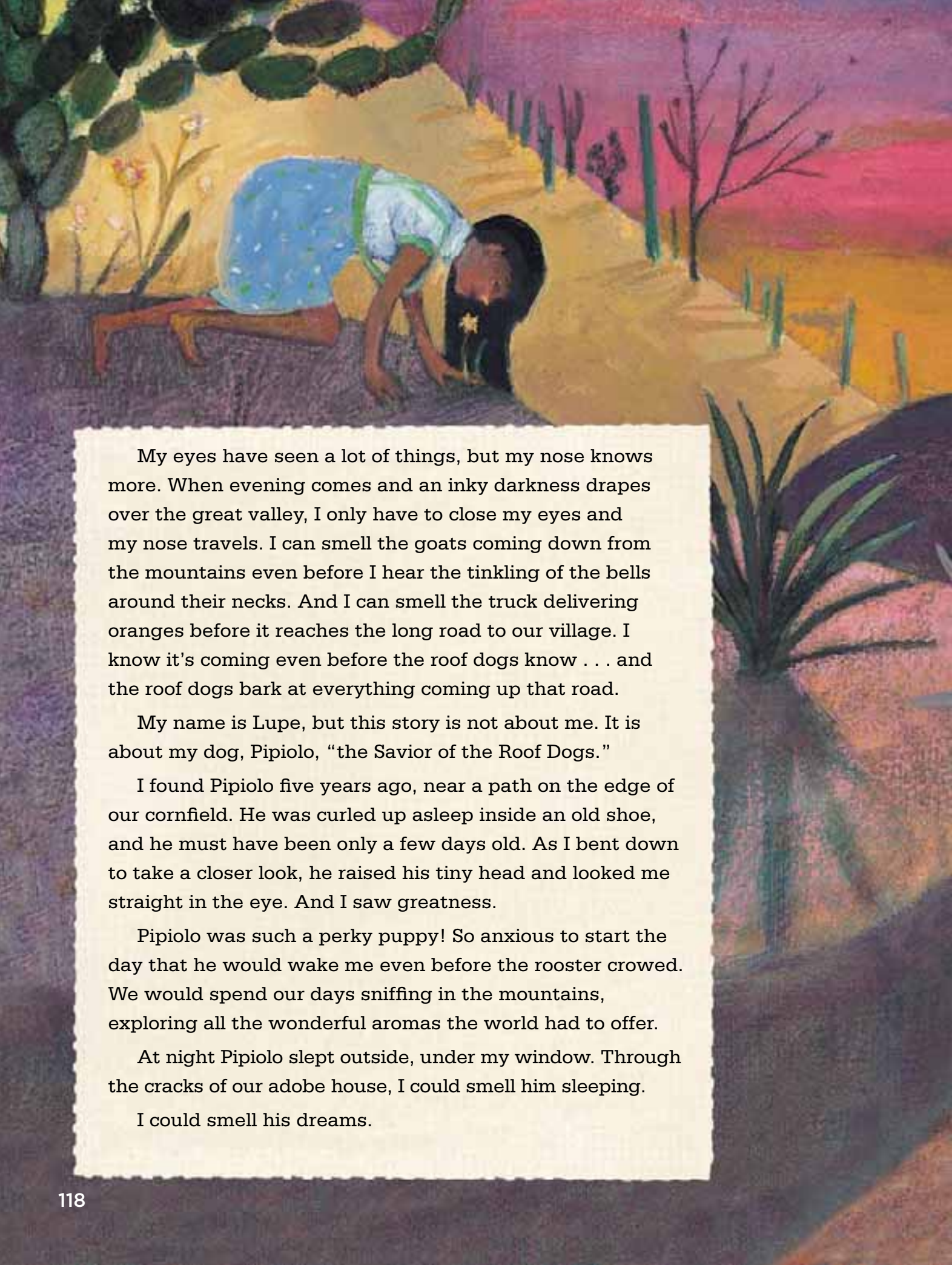
Pipiololo and the Roof Dogs

written by Brian Meunier

illustrated by Perky Edgerton

The village of San Pablo Etla is on the edge of a wide valley in southern Mexico. My father built our house on the mountainside overlooking the village. From there I can see the whole valley, the distant villages, and every house in San Pablo.





My eyes have seen a lot of things, but my nose knows more. When evening comes and an inky darkness drapes over the great valley, I only have to close my eyes and my nose travels. I can smell the goats coming down from the mountains even before I hear the tinkling of the bells around their necks. And I can smell the truck delivering oranges before it reaches the long road to our village. I know it's coming even before the roof dogs know . . . and the roof dogs bark at everything coming up that road.

My name is Lupe, but this story is not about me. It is about my dog, Pipiolo, "the Savior of the Roof Dogs."

I found Pipiolo five years ago, near a path on the edge of our cornfield. He was curled up asleep inside an old shoe, and he must have been only a few days old. As I bent down to take a closer look, he raised his tiny head and looked me straight in the eye. And I saw greatness.

Pipiolo was such a perky puppy! So anxious to start the day that he would wake me even before the rooster crowed. We would spend our days sniffing in the mountains, exploring all the wonderful aromas the world had to offer.

At night Pipiolo slept outside, under my window. Through the cracks of our adobe house, I could smell him sleeping.

I could smell his dreams.



Pipiolito walked with me to school each morning. As we passed through the village, the roof dogs would run to the edge of their roofs and furiously bark down at us. They never scared me much, because I knew they were the ones who were frightened. Pipiolito would race around barking, flaunting his own freedom. Much too proud, I thought. "Poor roof dogs!" I said to Pipiolito. "To be put up on roofs as puppies to serve as guard dogs, imprisoned on a small patch of hot concrete their whole lives. Never to smell the wet earth and feel the delicious squish of mud between their toes."

"You're lucky, Pipiolito, that we don't have a flat roof, or Papa would have put you up there a long time ago. Besides," I added, "I know you're just showing off for the cute one, Chulita."

He looked at me with his clear brown eyes, and I knew he understood.

One day, as we were traipsing through a field, Pipiolito gave out a sudden yelp. He then buried his nose in a tuft of grass. I got down and took a sniff. It had a kind of musty goat smell, with a hint of mint. Suddenly, I understood what Pipiolito was trying to tell me!

Using my school ruler as a shovel, I dug up a clump and stuffed it into my backpack. We ran to the village, where I broke the clump into many pieces. I tossed a piece to each angry roof dog, saving the piece with the flower in it for Chulita.

You should have heard the dogs as they experienced their first whiff of real earth—their barks turned from anger to delight. A unified howl of surprise and discovery! And Pipiolito and I howled right along with them in their symphony of **celebration**.

We had made a difference!



Cause and Effect

Why doesn't Pipiolito share the same fate as the other dogs in San Pablo Etla?





Every day, Pipiolo and I would dig up another **fragrance** and share it with the roof dogs. We worked hard to find a good **variety**, sometimes overlooking the very pungent for the rare and unusual.

Life went on like this for some time, until it dawned on me that, on many days, Pipiolo would not even get up with me in the morning to walk to school. He was spending more and more time sleeping in the shade during the day, while I was doing all the work myself in the hot sun!

One night, as I stepped out into our yard to smell the evening air, I saw Pipiolo's shadow slip into the cornfield. I crouched down so he wouldn't see me and followed him on all fours as he sauntered down the mountainside. Wherever he sniffed, I sniffed. I followed him through several cornfields, through a drainage pipe, and under fences. Straight to the only store in town that was still open, Tienda Soliz.

Now I understood why he was so tired during the day.

He had a night life!

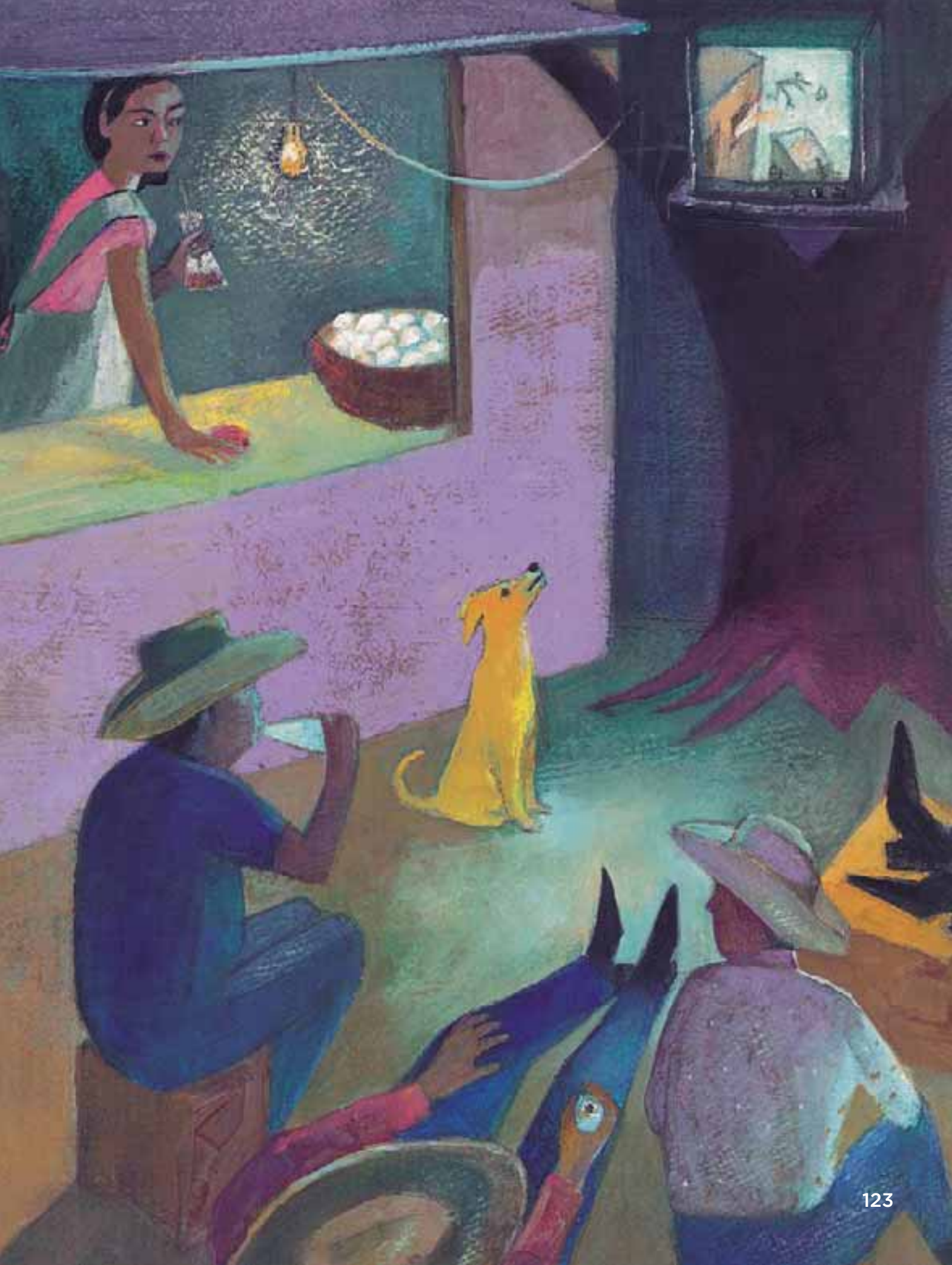
Even before I saw the flickering of blue light, I could smell the heated plastic of a television waft through the cool dark night. Tienda Soliz had the only television set in our village. We are so high up in these mountains that this television can only get one channel. And that one channel only shows old American westerns.

Pipiolo walked right up to the front of the television and plopped down. The mayor of our village, El Presidente, greeted him nonchalantly.

It was obvious Pipiolo was a regular.

My dog has been watching TV every night! I thought as I hid behind a corner to watch Pipiolo—and the movie, too.









The actor, Juan Wayne, was trapped on the roof of a burning building. Just when it looked as though all was lost, four horses pulling a hay wagon galloped through the town, and as it passed by, Juan Wayne jumped down into the hay to safety. At that moment, Pipiolo jumped up and let out an earthshaking howl. The men in the *tienda* sprang to their feet, visibly shaken. “Get that dog out of here!” shouted El Presidente.

Pipiolo raced out into the street, and I ran after him.

He ran down the main street of San Pablo. I looked up at the roof dogs and saw that they were all quietly watching Pipiolo.

They had been waiting for him!

I had never heard Pipiolo bark so long and so eloquently. He spoke of freedom, courage, **cooperation**, and action—and of all the smells yet to be experienced. The roof dogs and I were transfixed. And when he was through barking, they were **transformed**.

At his command, they all sat down to wait.

I must have fallen asleep, because suddenly I awoke to the tang of ripe oranges, followed by the familiar sound of a truck grinding its gears as it climbed along the long, steep road to our village.

Pipiolo barked, and the roof dogs stood up and began to leap from house to house toward the last two roofs at the end of the village. All, that is, except for Chulita, who shivered, frozen with terror.

The truck stopped at Tienda Soliz to make the delivery of oranges, then drove on to the end of the village to turn around. Pipiolo barked again, and the dogs all jumped down onto the pile of oranges in the back of the truck.

Chulita was now the only dog left. She barked forlornly as the truck started to make its way back through the village—and to leave Chulita behind.

The only roof dog in San Pablo Etla.

Just as the truck began to pass the house of Chulita, Pipiolo ran out in front of it. "Pipiolo!" I screamed as the driver blasted his horn and slammed on his brakes. But Pipiolo stood his ground. With the loudest bark I ever heard him make, he commanded Chulita to "Jump!" Chulita closed her eyes and took a great leap of faith, landing safely on top of the oranges. Only then did Pipiolo move out of the way, and the truck drove off out of town.



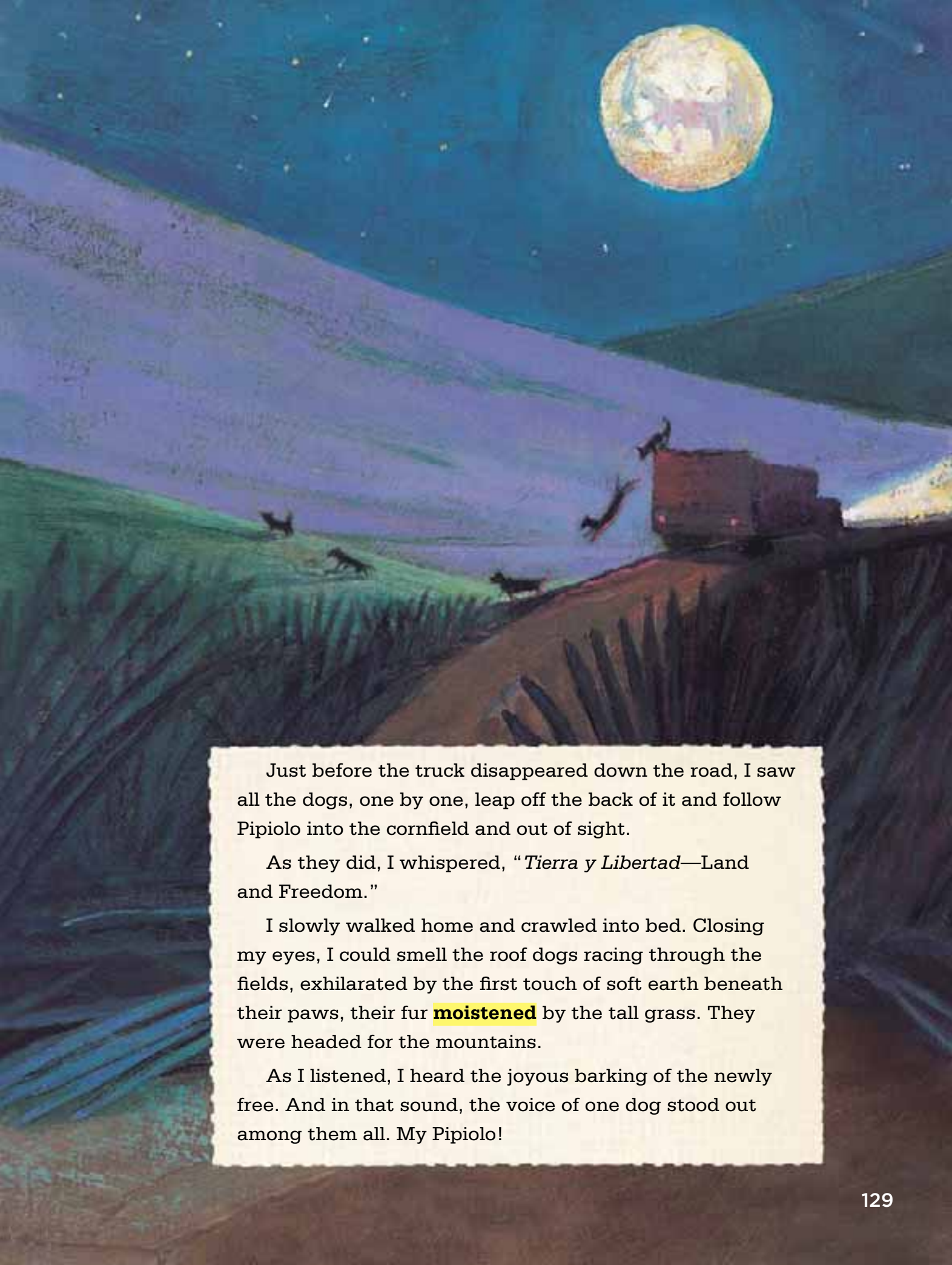
Cause and Effect

Why does Pipiolo run out in front of the truck?









Just before the truck disappeared down the road, I saw all the dogs, one by one, leap off the back of it and follow Pipiolo into the cornfield and out of sight.

As they did, I whispered, “*Tierra y Libertad*—Land and Freedom.”

I slowly walked home and crawled into bed. Closing my eyes, I could smell the roof dogs racing through the fields, exhilarated by the first touch of soft earth beneath their paws, their fur **moistened** by the tall grass. They were headed for the mountains.

As I listened, I heard the joyous barking of the newly free. And in that sound, the voice of one dog stood out among them all. My Pipiolo!





In my small village, things remain the same from day to day. The mysterious disappearance of the roof dogs was the biggest event ever to happen in San Pablo Etla. El Presidente called an emergency meeting and even **canceled** school. Everyone had a **theory**, but most agreed that it had to have been some kind of supernatural event. My little cousin, Inocencia, stood up and pronounced it “*El Milagro de San Pablo!*”—the Miracle of San Pablo!

The next morning, I got up especially early to take the long route to school, through the neighboring village of Viquera.

When I stepped out into my yard, I saw Pipiolo curled up in his usual spot under my window! I ran over to give him a big hug, but he was so deeply asleep, I decided not to wake him. Instead, I softly whispered in his ear, “Sleep, my dear Pipiolo. You’ve been busy, but you have much more to do.”

On my long walk to the next village, I explored several different aromas, finally settling on the very best. And this I shared with the roof dogs of Viquera.

As I did, I whispered to each dog in turn:

“Be patient. Pipiolo will be here soon.”

Come Along With Brian Meunier and Perky Edgerton



Brian Meunier wrote this story, but he is an artist, too. His large wood and metal bird sculptures are in museums and galleries all around the country. Brian is also a professor of fine arts. When he started writing, he didn't stop with this story. It is the first in a trilogy, which means there are two more books on a similar theme coming out soon.

Perky Edgerton worked on this story with her husband, Brian. She illustrated this story with paintings that are warm, complex, and dreamlike, which makes them a great fit for Brian's story. The original paintings for this book were in an exhibition. Perky and Brian live in Pennsylvania with their two daughters and a dog named Chulita.



Find out more about Brian Meunier and Perky Edgerton at www.macmillanmh.com

Author's Purpose

Pipilo and the Roof Dogs is a fantasy because not all of the events could take place in real life. Do you think Brian Meunier wrote just to entertain, or could he have had another purpose? Explain.



Comprehension Check



Summarize

Use your Cause and Effect Chart to help you summarize *Pipilo* and *the Roof Dogs*. In your own words, tell how the lives of the roof dogs.

Cause → Effect
→
→
→
→

Think and Compare



1. What caused Pipiolo to want to free the roof dogs from their lives as guard animals? Use what you know about Pipiolo's character from the story. **Generate Questions: Cause and Effect**
2. Reread page 131. Predict what will happen when Pipiolo gets to the town of Viquera. **Synthesize**
3. What **fragrances** would you share with the roof dogs? Explain your choices. **Evaluate**
4. Pipiolo used creative thinking to free the roof dogs. Explain how thinking creatively can help solve a problem. **Analyze**
5. Reread "It's a Dog's Life" on pages 114-115. Both Sparky and Pipiolo help others. Describe the similarities and differences between the jobs that both dogs do. Use details from both stories to support your answer. **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Science

Genre

Nonfiction Articles present facts about real people, living things, places, or events.

Text Feature

Charts organize information and make it easy to read.

Content Vocabulary

relays

retrieve

characteristics

stamina

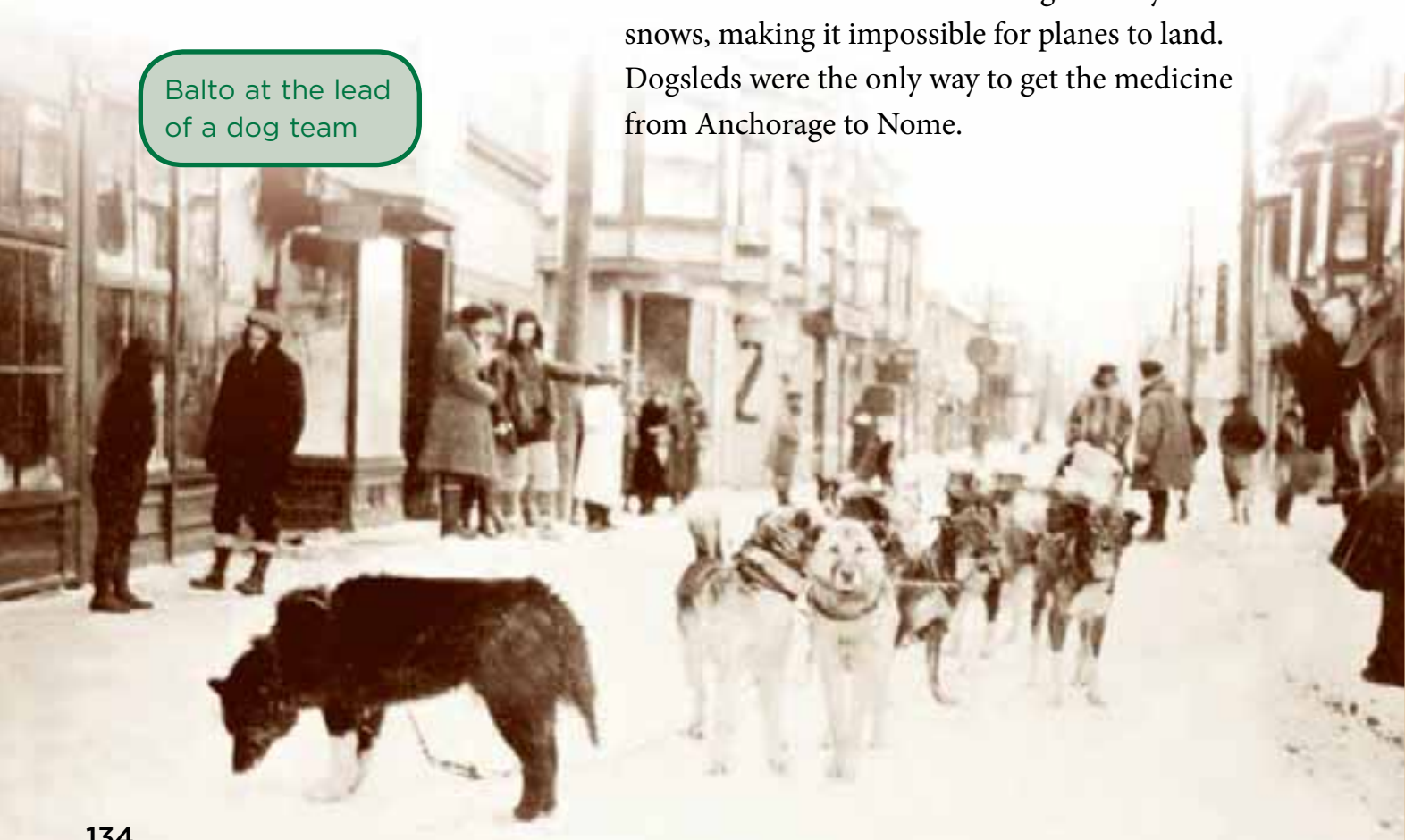
DOGGONE WORK

by Lori Marquez

In January 1925 many of the children in Nome, Alaska, were very ill with a serious disease called diphtheria. Their only hope was a serum used to cure the disease.

The serum was nearly a thousand miles away in Anchorage, Alaska. It was the middle of winter and blizzards had brought heavy snows, making it impossible for planes to land. Dogsleds were the only way to get the medicine from Anchorage to Nome.

Balto at the lead
of a dog team



Dog teams and their drivers began a series of dangerous journeys. The teams worked in **relays**, one team handing the serum off to the next team. Balto was the lead dog of the twentieth team. Strong and smart, Balto led the team safely across icy paths. His team reached Nome with the serum and the children were saved.

Why could Balto and the other dog teams make this journey? Different dogs have changed or adapted over centuries for different functions. Sled dogs like Balto have **characteristics** that help them pull sleds. They move their feet quickly and have remarkable strength for their size. Their double coat of fur protects them from cold, snow, and ice. These



Sledder Gunnar Kasson hugs his famous dog Balto

dogs have great **stamina** and keep going no matter what the conditions are. Also, they know how to find the safest way to travel. These qualities make them well adapted to pulling a sled in the worst winter weather.



Reading a Chart

This chart helps you organize information about dog breeds, their adaptations, and the work that each breed does.

DOG ADAPTATIONS

	Breed	Adaptation	Job
	Husky	Strong; fast; thick fur	Pulling sleds
	Collie	Instinct for herding other animals; good eyesight	Tending sheep and cattle
	Bloodhound	Excellent sense of smell	Searching and rescuing

SAR DOGS

Sled dogs are not the only dogs who work for a living. For example, Bronte is a search-and-rescue dog, or a SAR dog. Bronte is a rottweiler who helps find missing people. In 1995, after an explosion in a building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Bronte was brought in to search through the rubble. When she began to scratch and sniff in one place, her handler knew that she had found someone. Rescuers dug quickly and found a 15-year-old girl who was alive under the debris.

What makes a good SAR dog? First, SAR dogs need an especially good sense of smell. Dogs use their whiskers to help them smell. Whiskers help dogs know the direction of the wind so they can tell where a scent is coming from. SAR dogs use scents in the air to find a person in a

certain area. They can also sniff an item of human clothing and then track the scent of the person who wore it.

It takes about a year to train a SAR dog. These dogs are likely to be friendly, eager to please, and happy to **retrieve** things. Trainers use different forms of the game hide-and-seek to teach SAR dogs. The trainer hides an object. When the dog finds the hidden item, it drags the object back to the trainer. This training along with the dog's natural characteristics make it perfectly suited for search-and-rescue missions.

A rescue dog named Tracer picks up the scent of a diver in ten feet of water.



SERVICE DOGS

Other dogs have other jobs. Service dogs provide people with different types of services, depending on their needs. If you visit a sheep farm, you might see dogs herding sheep. Sheep dogs help move sheep from field to field or into holding pens. Some dogs help people. These dogs are trained to cross streets, open doors, and even make beds! You might even see an agriculture dog working at an airport. These dogs smell suitcases and packages, looking for harmful insects that might be hiding in food.



This service dog helps a blind woman cross the street.

Connect and Compare



1. Look at the dog adaptations chart on page 135. What characteristics do dogs that tend sheep have? **Reading a Chart**
2. If your family decided to adopt a dog, what characteristics would you look for? **Evaluate**
3. Think about “Doggone Work” and *Pipolo and the Roof Dogs*. What characteristics do Pipolo and a SAR dog have in common? **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Science Activity

Research three other dog breeds. Make a chart listing the work the dogs do and the characteristics that help each dog do that work.



Find out more about dogs at www.macmillanmh.com

Write About an Experience with an Animal

Writer's Craft

Unimportant Details

Delete **unimportant details** that do not tell about your topic. Also delete details that may tell something about your topic but are not really important.



Monday, October 3

My teacher encourages us to keep a journal. Here are details about last night.

I decided I should give descriptive details about African gray parrots.

I've had my African gray parrot for about three years. His name is Frank. He's about a foot tall, with gray feathers all over, except for his brilliant red tail. His eyes are yellow.

I've been talking to Frank for three years, but in all this time he's only squawked back at me.

Last night all of that changed. I was reading in bed. All of a sudden I heard, "Hi, Bao!" I glanced over, and Frank was staring at me. Then he said it again, "Hi, Bao!" I couldn't believe it! Not only was Frank talking to me, but he was using my name! I answered him: "Hi, Frank!" He was quiet. I reached over to turn off my bedside lamp. Just then I heard Frank's voice again. "Goodnight!" he said. "Goodnight, Frank!" I replied.

Your Turn

Write a journal entry about an encounter you have had with an animal. The animal could be a pet, one you saw at the zoo, or a wild animal. Use lots of details so that the reader can understand your experience. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- ☐ **Ideas and Content:** Did I delete **unimportant details** that do not help the reader to understand my ideas?
- ☒ **Organization:** Do my ideas flow together in a logical way?
- ☒ **Voice:** Does my journal entry sound like something I would say?
- ☒ **Word Choice:** Did I use strong and colorful words?
- ☒ **Sentence Fluency:** When I read my journal entry aloud, does it sound pleasing?
- ☒ **Conventions:** Are all of my sentences complete? Did I check my spelling?



Test Strategy

Think and Search

The answer is in more than one place. Keep reading to find the answer.

The Year of the Two Winters

retold by Tricia Gentle

Characters

PAUL BUNYAN, superhuman lumberjack

SIX LUMBERJACKS, each named Elmer

LUCY, the purple cow

SOURDOUGH SAM, the cook

OLÉ, the blacksmith

Job	Workers	Date Done
Sharpen Axes	Elmer	Postponed due to Snow
Cut Trees	Elmer	Postponed due to Snow
Hire Workers	Paul Bunyan	Postponed due to Snow
Shoe Babe	Olé	Postponed due to Snow
Make Griddle	Olé	Postponed due to Snow

[Setting: A lumber camp in Michigan. It is May, but snow covers the trees. Paul Bunyan is digging through the snow and finds three of the Elmers, Lucy, and Sourdough Sam frozen underneath.]

PAUL BUNYAN: If I wait for the spring thaw, we won't get any work done this year.
(Shouts back over his shoulder.)

Olé, I found Sam and some others, but they're frozen stiff! Let's get a fire going over here!

OLÉ: *(Calls from offstage.)* Okay, Paul, I'm on my way!

(Olé arrives and builds a fire near the frozen characters. When the fire begins to roar, the characters caught in the frozen scene come to life.)

SOURDOUGH SAM: *(Rubs warmth back into his body.)* Thank you, Olé. I was starting to think it would be summer before I'd lay eyes on you again. I know everyone must be hungry, like me. Snow doesn't make much of a meal, you know.

PAUL: I sent my ox for a load of pork and beans. Babe should be back any time now.

SOURDOUGH SAM: Great! Paul, will you lend me some Elmers to get a meal going?

PAUL: Be glad to, Sam. *(Turns and shouts over his shoulder.)* Elmer!

(The three Elmers from the frozen scene appear along with three others who come from offstage.)

PAUL: *(Chuckling.)* Best idea I ever had, hiring all of these Elmers. It saves me a lot of time.

SOURDOUGH SAM: Elmers, go build fires on the shore all around that icy lake over there. *(They leave.)* We'll boil the water in that lake and make a pot of pork and beans. We'll have hot food for the rest of the year.

PAUL: But what will we wash it all down with?

SOURDOUGH SAM: I'd suggest milk, but judging by the looks of Lucy over there, I guess we're out of luck. She produces only when the grass is green, and last time I saw that color on the ground was last month!

Answer Questions

PAUL: *(Taking green glasses from his pocket.)* If green is what she needs, then green is what we'll give her. If she wears these glasses, the snow will look like grass. *(Paul goes to Lucy and puts glasses on her. Lucy starts grazing. An Elmer arrives with a pail and begins milking her.)*

(It starts to snow.)

SOURDOUGH SAM: *(Disgusted.)* Snow, again! How many winters are we going to have this year?

PAUL: It's hard to say, Sam. Sure looks like we're not having much of a spring. I'm going to tell the Elmers to let their beards grow. They can wrap themselves in their beards until summer.

SOURDOUGH SAM: That's a good idea, Paul. 'Cause from the looks of things, this is going to be a Paul Bunyan-sized winter or winters. *(Laughs and claps Paul on the back.)*



Tip

Keep reading. The answer may be in more than one place.

Directions: Answer the questions.**1. How do the Elmers help Paul save time?**

- A** They like to cook pork and beans.
- B** They help with many jobs.
- C** They shoe Babe.
- D** They give Lucy glasses.

2. What foods does Sourdough Sam suggest they prepare?

- A** pork and beans and snow
- B** green grass and milk
- C** pork and beans and milk
- D** They cannot cook because of the snow.

3. Look at the chart and the play. What jobs could the Elmers do?

- A** sharpen axes, cut trees, milk the cow
- B** start the fire, shoe Babe, cook pork and beans
- C** cook pork and beans, shovel snow, light a fire
- D** make a griddle, cook pork and beans, milk the cow

4. Summarize the play. Briefly tell what happens in the beginning, middle, and end.**5. Using what you know and what you have read, explain why tall tales are fun to read. Include examples from the selection in your answer.****Writing Prompt**

Have you ever had a problem due to weather? What happened? Write a letter to a friend about a time weather caused a problem for you. Write three to five paragraphs and include details to tell what happened.

